POLICE AT BAY.

REMARKABLE AFFAIR IN CORNWALL.

MANY MEN SHOT.

An extraordinary shooting affair is reported from St. Blazey, Cornwall.

It is stated that a man who some years ago was discharged from Bodmin Asylum shot at a six-year old boy yesterday, the little fellow being hit on the face. The man took refuge in a house, and armed with a double-barrelled sporting gun has since held the police at bay.

Policemen subsequently went to arrest him, and had a narrow escape, a point blank charge passing close to his head.

Lowell, a sailor, attempted to enter the house, but was shot in the shoulder, and a labourer named Frederick May received a charge in the chest, but neither is seriously injured.

Sergeant Turner, a master plumber, tried to obtain admission to the cottage, and was badly shot in the wrist. Turner was removed to Fowey Cottage Hospital, where his hand was amputated.

The men followed the sergeant, but the man was still holding the fort, and although there are ten policemen present it is dangerous to approach the house.

There is no back or side entrance, and it is therefore impossible to deliver anything but a frontal attack. The man has barricaded the door and taken up a position in the bedroom, where he commands all approaches. The streets in the vicinity are thronged with excited crowds.

COAL TRADE PROBLEMS.

POLICY OF THE MINERS' FEDERATION.

A NATIONAL CONCILIATION BOARD.

The situation in the coal trade is acknowledged to be a delicate and difficult one to handle. The present year finds a number of problems pressing for solution; of arrangements affecting hours and wages awaiting adjustment. The new Eight Hours Act comes into operation on the 1st of July, and both the coalowners and the men's representatives are fully aware that it presents many varying practices as to working hours and customs which have so far brought into harmonious relationship the fixed conditions of an eight hour day.

Then, with the 31st of December, the whole of the Conciliation Board agreements in the original federation districts in England, Scotland, and South Wales come to a natural termination, though in the last-named coalfield a three months' notice is required. The settlement of these important matters is made more difficult by the depression in trade, and the fact that the negotiations have to be carried through on a falling market, when the conditions are against the men. This is the uncomfortable factor in the situation

The wheel of fortune has turned from the present year has been downward. It would be a bold—and probably a false—prophecy who said that the lowest point had not been reached. In the English federation area, which covers the whole of the Midlands, the eastern counties, Yorkshire and Lancashire, a 5 per cent. reduction has been granted, which, following the 5 per cent. reduction in the autumn of last year, has brought wages down to 55 per cent. on the standard. In South Wales the men have suffered a 5 per cent. reduction from the highest point attained. This leaves wages at 55 per cent. on the standard, or 5 per cent. above the level of the English coalfield. In Scotland wages are now 60 per cent. on the standard, having fallen some 25 per cent. from the highest wage attained. In Northumberland the 8½ per cent. reduction granted by the Conciliation Board on Saturday has brought wages down to 29½ per cent. above the standard. In Durham the wages stand at 45 per cent. on the 1879 standard basis.

THE WAGE BASIS.

It was decided at a national conference held in the autumn of 1907 at Manchester that efforts should be made in all the districts to raise the wages basis by 25 per cent. Some considerable have been in progress throughout the whole of 1908, but so far without any practical result. These negotiations have been conducted in such agreements have been in existence, and it is hardly to be supposed that the coalowners would agree to a change in the wage basis during the life of such agreements. The opportunity for such a revision of the wage basis presents itself when new agreements have to be made and signed, as will be the case in the end of the present year. But the raising of the wage basis is only part of a bigger and more ambitious scheme. The difficulties which have arisen in connection with the putting into operation of the Eight Hours Act have for the time forced the question of raising the wage basis into the background. It is recognised by all the parties that the settlement of the difficulties of the Eight Hours Act must have precedence of all other matters. The Act becomes operative on the 1st of July, and the time is all too short for men and men—as that the outstanding matters may be arranged before that time, so as to avoid any stoppage.

The difficulties are so varying in character that they cannot be dealt with locally, though broad principles may be laid down by the Conciliation Boards in South Wales, where it has been the custom to work four long days of ten hours and two short days of eight hours, there will necessarily be a considerable amount of negotiation to determine the basis of an eight hours day. Lancashire will probably be the only county where the difficulties in England. Many of the pits have been worked for nine to ten hours, and on five days in the week, there will be a considerable reduction in working time. In Durham and Northumberland the question for adjustment are entirely different to any of the other mining districts. The coal hewers are working shorter eight hours, the boys and labourers working nine to ten hours and serving two and three bosses. This is admitted to be the most economical method of coal production in the country. The adopting of the North of England methods to the new conditions are to them will be a matter of much difficulty. The National Conference which will meet in London next month will lay down the broad principles on which the districts shall be in making the arrangements for bringing the Act into operation. South Wales is, so far, the only district which is threatened with trouble. The more level-headed owners and men believe that it is possible to arrange matters without the stoppage of a pit, but the danger to the industrial peace of the district cannot be too strongly emphasised, and be heeded on both sides. There are, happily, restraining forces in the ranks of both the owners and men which are of a peaceful character, and which, if they cannot be ignored is that the Act is inevitable, and the owners and men must adapt themselves to the new conditions.

FEDERATION'S AMBITIONS.

The Miners' Federation has set its bones and ambitions upon the formation of a National Conciliation Board controlling the wages of the miners of Great Britain without the limits of a minimum and maximum wage. At present there are five Boards in the Conciliation Board system, one for the original federated districts in England and North Wales, which may be said to regulate the wages for the bulk of the coal mining district with the exception of Northumberland and Durham. A second board for Scotland, a third for South Wales, and a third for Scotland. The two northern districts of Durham and Northumberland have their own separate and distinct Conciliation Boards.

The policy of the Miners' Federation is to weld these Boards together, and form a National Board, with representatives of owners and men for all the districts with equal voting power, and a neutral chairman to determine disputed points. Is the scheme, bold and ambitious in conception, practical? Is it practicable? Is it possible of attainment? The men believe that by taking a central wage standard which will equalise the conditions of trade and competition equalise the various districts it is possible to fix a certain minimum and maximum rate to move the wages up and down simultaneously in all the mining districts without disturbing the relative rates of those districts. The coalowners contend that a National Board is an unworkable idea, as an entirely different set of conditions regulate the home trade and export trade, and that it is impossible to fix a single wage which will be applicable to both the home and export trades. There is also a strong opposition on the part of many owners to any proposal which would bring the whole of the miners into a body having with powers to simultaneously stop production.

Owing to some depression in the Russian cotton trade, 100,000 workpeople are out of employment.

The chairman of a Welsh board of guardians, who is an amateur phrenologist, has examined the bumps of a lad sent to a training ship and given a favourable report of him.

I've motored wide on every side,
And the great South Pole I've seen;
I've learnt to fly in an airship high,
And I've dived in a submarine!
But I never got ill from a cold or chill
On my quest Antarctic tour,
For on all my trips in balloons and ships
I take Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.—[Adv.

AN EASTER HOLIDAY.

NOTORIOUS VAGABOND SENTENCED IN NOTTM.

A rough and ready method of obtaining a night's lodging was found on the 31st of March by Henry Bingham, a wandering cutler, who threw a stone through the plate-glass window of a shop in Lenton-road, Nottingham, doing damage to the amount of 5s.

P.c. Ambrey arrested Bingham, who said "Yes, I did it; I wanted a night's lodging; lock me up." The officer obliged him, and at the Guildhall to-day Bingham had to suffer for his little fancy.

Chief-Supt. Clarke told the magistrates (Mr. T. Shipstone and Mr. J. H. Haywood) that Bingham was a bad character, and even now was on ticket-of-leave having only come out of prison on March 25th.

A York man, a notorious vagabond and not fit to be at large," said Mr Shipstone to the prisoner, "so we will give you an Easter holiday of a month at Bagthorp."

STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE.

UTTOXETER MAN MISSING FOR A WEEK.

AN OMINOUS NOTE.

Mr. Geo. Wilne, nurseryman and seedsman, of the Smithfield-road, Uttoxeter, disappeared from his home on Wednesday morning of last week. He left a note for his wife saying "I shall be in the house when you get up." Mrs. Wilne also found his watch and chain and some money on the table.

Mr. Wilne was seen going down Bradley-street in the direction of the river about 4.30 on the morning of his disappearance, and later he was seen in Dove Meadows by a man named Wainwright, who spoke to him.

Mrs. Wilne can give no reason for her husband's disappearance. He was strong and healthy, and had never threatened to do away with himself. His finances were in a sound condition.

The police have been carrying out dragging operations since Sunday, but with no result. The following is a description of the missing man:—Thirty-eight years old, height 5ft. 8in. or 9in., dark brown hair and light brown moustache, grey eyes, fresh complexion, stoutish build, scar inside left forearm. He was dressed in green coloured cap, light check cloth coat and vest, dark mixture cloth trousers, and black lace-up boots.

CLAYTON AND SHUTTLEWORTH

CRITICISM OF THE MANAGEMENT.

The annual meeting was held yesterday of the shareholders of Messrs. Clayton and Shuttleworth and Co., Limited, Lincoln. The report of the directors shows a balance of profit of £64,716, but £10,000 is transferred from the reserve fund, and after payment to the preferential dividends there is no dividends to the ordinary shareholders.

The Chairman (Mr. F. S. Drury), in moving the adoption of the report, said the true explanation of the still unsatisfactory state of affairs was that the establishment which had been recently enlarged had not been fully employed. He entered into a considerable explanation of the relationship between the company's enterprises at Lincoln and at Florida. Critics with insufficient knowledge had attributed it to the over management and to errors of administration. That was beside the point at a meeting of this kind, and, besides, he could not regard some of the criticism as unbiassed or free from personal animus.

The report came in for a good deal of criticism, and shareholders complained freely of the management of the company. The chairman frequently had occasion to deal with the complaint that observations were disagreeable in the interests of the company.

An able criticism of the policy of the company was made by Mr. W. T. Page.

Eventually the report was adopted.

Colonel Frank Shuttleworth was re-elected a director, the meeting joining in a unanimous expression of confidence in him.

KING AND KAISER.

MEDITERRANEAN MEETING NOT AT ALL LIKELY.

We have strong ground for believing that the reports emanating from Germany, which forecast an early meeting between the King and Kaiser at Corfu, are based upon a misapprehension, and are erroneous.

There is no authority for the positive statement that no meeting between the King and Kaiser at Corfu has been arranged or contemplated, and the behaviour of the two monarchs make it extremely unlikely that there will be any Mediterranean meeting between them this spring.

The Emperor goes shortly to Corfu, and is expected to make a stay of something like three weeks, but it is definitely known that King Edward has no present intention of going to Corfu at all.

It is true that both King and Emperor intend to visit Malta, and that may have led to misunderstanding in some quarters, but the respective plans in this connection do not presage a meeting. Portugal, which would provide the possibility, if it unless some very radical change be made.

King Edward and Queen Alexandra hope to reach Malta on the 19th inst., and the Emperor should arrive there quite at the end of the month. The early days of the visit of the next month, and in either case the King and Queen will have left long before the arrival of the Emperor. The Emperor's visit to Malta is to call upon the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and that of the King is for the same purpose.

Although the date of embarkation of the King and Queen on the Royal yacht is not yet absolutely settled, it is likely to be the 17th inst., and it is probable that the port of embarkation will be Genoa, instead of Marseilles.

THE CAMPING SEASON.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOCAL PERRITORIALISTS.

Now that the suggested dates and sites have received official approval, we are able to give the complete arrangements for the local territorial corps. It will be seen that each of the units in the Notts. and Derby Mounted Brigade will be their separate camps, as in the past, but the infantry brigade will have the advantage of a brigade camp, the four battalions as well as the Field Ambulance and Mounted Brigade proceeding to Scarborough, where they will be accommodated on the racecourse. The Lincoln and Leicester Brigade will be split up, one half going to Garendon Park and the other to High Tor Farm, Charnwood Forest. It has been found practicable to bring together the whole of the companies in the North Midland Divisional Ammunition Supply Column, and transport work will be undertaken at Whittington, while the signal company will be sent to one or Lichfield, and gain an insight into the operations of the regular. Appended is the list:—

SCARBOROUGH MOUNTED BRIGADE.

Sherwood Rangers—May 29th to June 5th ....Doddington
South Notts Hussars—May 29th to June 5th ....Clifton Pastures

NOTTS AND DERBY MOUNTED BRIGADE.

Notts and Derby Mounted Brigade, T. and S. Col.—June 12th to June 19th .....Clifton Pastures
Derbyshire Yeomanry—June 5th to June 12th ....Chatsworth Park

NOTTS AND DERBY INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Notts R.H.A. Battery—July 24th to August 7th .....Winster
Notts Infantry Brigade Field Ambulance—July 24th to August 7th .....Scarborough
Notts and Derby Brigade, T. and S. Col.—August 7th to August 14th .....Scarborough
1st Notts and Derby Regiment—July 24th to August 7th .....Scarborough
2nd Notts and Derby Regiment—July 24th to August 7th .....Scarborough
3rd Notts and Derby Regiment (Robin Hoods) July 24th to August 7th .....Scarborough
4th Notts and Derby Regiment—July 24th to August 7th .....Scarborough

LINCOLN AND LEICESTER BRIGADE.

4th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment—July 25th to August 8th .....Garendon Park
5th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment—July 25th to August 8th .....Garendon Park
1st Battalion Leicester Regiment—August 1st to August 15th .....High Tor Farm, Coalville
5th Battalion Leicester Regiment—August 1st to August 15th .....High Tor Farm, Coalville
Lincoln and Leicester Brigade Tr., A.S.C.—August 1st to August 15th .....High Tor Farm, Coalville
2nd Wessex Field Ambulance—July 24th to August 7th .....Garendon Park
4th Northern General Hospital—July 24th to July 31st .....Military Hospital, York
5th Northern General Hospital—August 1st to August 8th .....Military Hospital, York

Two deaf mutes have just been married at Selby Abbey Church, the service being interpreted.

As a result of the overturning of a petrol omnibus at Hendon yesterday two drivers, named Wilson, was severely scalded by the plunging horses.

PRICE OF WHEAT STILL RISING

HIGHEST FIGURE FOR 25 YEARS.

The effect of the Chicago corner in wheat was felt on the London Corn Market yesterday, when British grain sold at higher prices than it has done for 25 years past.

The top price rose to 45s. 6d. per qr. for white wheat. Red British wheat sold at 45s., while British flour rose to 39s. per 280lb.

It is anticipated that wheat will rise to 50s. at a meeting of the London Flour Millers' Association, which was held yesterday afternoon, the price for town households was advanced 1s. to 54s. 6d., whites 3s. extra.

PRISONER'S SHRIEKS

ANNOYED LADY CONSTANCE LYTTON.

In the House of Commons yesterday Sir George Scott Robertson, on behalf of Mr. Essex, the member for the Cirencester division, asked the Home Secretary whether, during her incarceration in Holloway, Lady Constance Lytton was kept for days subjected to the pain and annoyance of hearing the shrieks of a woman in a near cell lying under sentence of death for the murder of her child; whether Lady Constance Lytton made any complaint to the governor of the prison; and, if so, what action was taken by him.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone said there was only one woman under sentence of death in the prison at the time, and she was not located in the same wing as Lady Constance Lytton. Inquiry had been perfectly quiet and orderly. Possibly Lady Constance Lytton heard the cries of an insane woman confined in another part of the prison, whose mental condition did not permit her removal. Lady Constance Lytton made no complaint to the governor.

WORKING A LAME HORSE.

KIRKBY WIDOW FINED.

For working an unfit horse, Ernest Jackson, a youth, employed by Mrs. Minnie Heath, widow, of Kirkby, was summoned at Mansfield to-day, on the information of Inspector Smith of the R.S.P.C.A. Mrs. Heath was also summoned for causing the horse to be worked, but she did not appear.

Inspector Watkins said that on the 27th ult. he was at Church-hill, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, when he saw Jackson driving a cart in which a lame mare was in great pain, and resting its near fore leg, upon which it could bear no weight at all. He spoke to Jackson about it, and he said he proceed being stopped. On examining the mare he found that the tendon of the near fore foot was contracted, and that altogether it was in a very bad state. Subsequently he saw Mrs. Heath, who said she was aware that the horse was lame. She had not intended working it, but the County Council required some stones broken on the road.

Mrs. Heath was fined £2, including costs, the summons against Jackson being dismissed.

COLLEGE STUDENTS ROBBED.

DERBY'S FIRST CASE UNDER THE NEW ACT.

The Derby boy, James Henry Stirland, who stole a number of packets of cigarettes a couple of days before the Children Act came into operation, had the distinction to-day of being actually the first individual to be dealt with under the operation of that Act. He had been caught by George William Laddis, porter at the Technical College, just as, it was alleged, he had taken a pump, value 1s. 6d., from a bicycle placed in a shed at the rear of the college. The pump belonged to John William Brown, of Mastock, a student at the college, and it was stated that the cycle from which it had been taken had been committed from the same shed, as many as eight lamps having been stolen during the past nine or ten days. At the police court he said he Darlaston-road two bicycle lamps were found.

The Chairman (Captain H. M. Haywood) told the magistrates (Mr. W. G. Norman and Mr. G. Shires) that the boy occurred to be neglected at home. As he could not be remanded to the workhouse under the new Act, he asked that he might be allowed to return home until Wednesday, in order that inquiries might be made.

Stirland's mother said that he was dragged up the college yard by other boys who compelled him to take the pump, and then ran away when he was caught, he accompanying the others. Until Wednesday, his grandmother becoming surety for his appearance.

BANQUET FOLLOWED BY FIRE

RIVERSIDE CLUB WRECKED.

Damage to the extent of some thousands of pounds resulted from a fire at the Albany Club, on the Albany Road, Kingston-on-Thames, which was discovered just before three o'clock yesterday morning, some two hours after the holding of a Masonic installation banquet at the club house.

Fortunately, owing to the river being not having yet opened, no one was sleeping at the club house. In two rooms the inner rear of the building, which overlooks the Teddington reach of the river, was gutted, the whole of the ten upstairs rooms, with the exception of one, being wrecked.

The dining-room of the club on the ground floor presented an extraordinary scene of wreckage. The ceiling of the handsome apartment gave way, and crashed with such force on the tables, covered with silver plate, glass, and other remains of the Masonic banquet that they were broken down beneath the great weight of falling plaster and